GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
PREVALENCE OF FLUOROSIS DISEASE
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fluorosis disease is prevalent in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any research in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the study/ research; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to eradicate the disease from the country, especially from Kerala?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) As per studies conducted by various organisations based on fluoride content of the drinking water fluorosis is prevalent in 196 districts of 19 States/UTs which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis in the country is 25 million.

(e) Fluororis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramoddya Yojana (PMGY) − Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Alongwith the Department of Drinking water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ionmeters to different States for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to public health engineers and medical professionals from various State, Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

The Government is considering launch of a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis.